

Dear Partners,

In the Book of Esther, we find a woman struggling to understand why God chose her to save the Jews. When asked by her uncle Mordecai to “step out in faith” for her people who were about to be destroyed, her summarized response was, “Don’t you realize I could die for this?” The wise uncle answered, “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”

Although we are not at a crossroads where people’s lives immediately depend on our actions, **Asian Hope is in a crucial transitional phase.** Many of these once abandoned children are now young men and women being trained at respected universities throughout the world so that they might one day find themselves in **positions of authority to revitalize Cambodia for Christ.**

This training is costly, even with full tuition scholarships provided by many of the schools. We still must pay for insurance, room and board, books and travel costs. It will cost us \$150,000 for our thirteen young men and women to attend universities this next fiscal year. **We are encouraged by the tremendous financial growth we have experienced this year, but are still in need of \$60,000 by July 31st to fully fund our programs!** In addition, we need to raise 25% more funds next year to accommodate our exciting growth.

Given the current economic conditions, there is need everywhere and we must all be good stewards with our resources. We want you to know that **each student signs an agreement** to go back for at least three years to work in Cambodia or pay back the cost of school. **Most of these students will return to Cambodia to serve for the rest of their lives.**

I would like to share with you a short story of their commitment. One of the girls who graduated with high marks from Logos, but was unable to attend a university outside of Cambodia due to a lack of financial resources, emailed one of our university students named Ehud Seng. He is working toward a degree in teaching at Liberty University. The graduate’s email to Ehud said, “You don’t realize how fortunate you are to attend university. Take your opportunity seriously and make the most of it **because you are the hope of the future of Cambodia.**”

Just like Esther, these young men and women sometimes wonder why God chose them out of all the other abandoned children to have the opportunity to save their country in the name of Christ. Despite any doubts they have, **they are confident God has a plan for them and their country and are grateful for your help in achieving it.**

With more than 50% of the population under the age of 21, the youth will shape the future of Cambodia.

The Asian Hope flame signifies the hope that each child can make a difference, and my prayer is that it will burn a passion in your hearts to get involved in what God is doing here! **Won’t you “step out in faith” and share in this hope with us for such a time as this?**

In Christ,

Stephen Walkup
Chairman of the Board

P.S. Now is the time to get involved! Please send your gifts by July 31st to strengthen our Fiscal Year-End.